



Botany Intern

Southern California is one of five places in the world that have Mediterranean –type ecosystems. The Santa Monica Mountains contain over 900 native plant species that occur in over 200 vegetation associations. This unique assemblage of plants is threatened by direct and indirect effects of urban encroachment, particularly impacts from establishment of introduced invasive species and unnaturally high fire frequencies. The intern will participate in work to inventory, monitor, and understand the changes in the plant communities of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Major Duties (You will increase your ability to):

- Collect plot-based vegetation and habitat data; with emphasis on riparian and coastal sage scrub habitats and recently burned areas.
- Survey for invasive plants.
- Data entry and analysis.
- Survey and assess populations of rare, threatened and endangered plant species.

Requirements:

- Intern must be a US citizen or permanent resident of the United States.
- Undergraduate degree in botany, plant ecology, or biology.
- Knowledge of the southern California flora and general botany.
- Knowledge of the Santa Monica Mountains native plant vegetation.
- Ability to key out plants to species using a dichotomous key.
- Knowledge of vegetation mapping and sampling techniques.
- Ability to navigate using map, compass and geographic positioning equipment.
- Ability to gather field data with accuracy.
- Ability to perform computer work processing and database management.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Access, and geographic information systems (ArcGIS) is desirable.
- Ability to compile and organize information to assist with technical reports.
- Ability to work well both independently and as part of a team, be detail-oriented and organized.
- Good oral & written communication skills; ability to follow oral and written directions.
- Valid driver's license.
- Must have own transportation to and from worksite. Government vehicles are available for intern use within the scope of their internship.

Work Site and Conditions:

- Position involves substantial amounts of strenuous walking in rough terrain and through dense chaparral, steep slopes, and drainages, carrying a heavy backpack.
- Commitment of 12 weeks, full time, is preferred, but part time schedules may be arranged for local residents.
- Intern will work weekdays. Specific schedules will be determined based upon availability, field work coordinator schedules and project needs.
- Position may involve computer station work in an office setting
- A fingerprint and background check may be required.

Compensation:

A stipend of \$20 per workday is available. Intern will be paid monthly or as worked out by the intern supervisor. Full time interns from outside the area may be eligible for shared housing.

How to Apply

To apply, submit the following documents via email to ryan_stead@nps.gov.

- Letter of intent (include how the position will benefit your career, the dates you are available, whether you need housing, your understanding that this internship is unpaid, except for the stipend, and that you have your own vehicle for transportation to and from work)
- Resume
- Transcripts (unofficial are acceptable)
- Three references

For additional questions contact ryan_stead@nps.gov.



(rev. Jan. 2012)